

REMARKS

This reply is in response to the Office Action dated February 6, 2008. Claims 57-117 are pending in the application. Claims 57-97 and 102-117 have been withdrawn. Claims 98-101 stand rejected. Applicant has canceled the withdrawn claims 57-97 and 102-117, and has also added new claims 118-133 to more clearly recite aspects of the invention. No new matter has been added. Entry of the foregoing amendments and reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103

Claims 98, 99 and 101 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kennedy et al. (U.S. Patent No. 3,363,442; hereafter “*Kennedy*”). Claim 100 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over *Kennedy*.

Applicant has amended base claim 98, obviating the rejections. At the very least, *Kennedy* does not teach, show, or suggest a means for sensing at least one of the linear speed of the advancing tube, the straightness of the tube, the speed of rotation of the supporting cylinder, and the finished diameter of tube, as required in claims 98-101, as amended. Furthermore, *Kennedy* does not teach, show, or suggest a means for controlling the speed of rotation of the rollers in relation to the speed of advance of the tube, as required in claims 98-101, as amended. Withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Regarding the new claims 118-127, *Kennedy* does not teach, show, or suggest a means for determining at least one of the linear speed of the advancing tube, the straightness of the tube, the speed of rotation of the supporting cylinder, and the finished diameter of the tube and means for controlling at least one of the speed of rotation of the rollers in relation to the speed of advance of the tube, the height of the supporting cylinder, and the displacement of the rollers. For at least this reason, allowance of new claims 118-127 is respectfully requested.

Regarding the new claims 128-133, *Kennedy* does not teach, show, or suggest sensing at least one of the linear speed of the advancing tube, the straightness of the tube, the speed of rotation of the cylindrical array, and the finished diameter of the tube and controlling at least one of the speed of rotation of the rollers in relation to the speed of advance of the tube, the height of the roller housing to straighten the tube, and the degree of displacement of the rollers to regulate

the finished diameter of the tube. For at least this reason, allowance of new claims 128-133 is respectfully requested.

Secondary References

The secondary references made of record are noted. However, it is believed that the secondary references are no more pertinent to the Applicant's disclosure than the primary reference cited in the Office Action. Therefore, Applicant believes that a detailed discussion of the secondary references is not necessary for a full and complete response to this Office Action.

Conclusion

Having addressed all issues set out in the office action, Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Applicant invites the Examiner to telephone the undersigned attorney if there are any issues outstanding which have not been addressed to the Examiner's satisfaction.

Respectfully submitted,

Aug. 6, 2008
Date

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